

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ March 4, 2024

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on March 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

- Beth Morrissette, President
- Dana Blakely, Vice President
- Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary
- Adam Yale, Treasurer
- Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect
- Sarah Rider, Director

Notice of the meeting was given by placing advance notice on the front page of the District's website no less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled commencement of the meeting as authorized by Board Policy 1220. Notice for this meeting appeared beginning on February 21, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on March 1 and 4, 2024, and on their website. Copies of proof of publication are attached to the official minutes. Notice of this meeting and the availability of the agenda was simultaneously given to all members of the Board of Education and available to anyone at the Board of Education office. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

District Staff in Attendance: Mike Lucas, Mark Weichel, Andrea Haynes, Brian Gabriel, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Robert Aranda, Abby Langner, Becky Lowther, Cynthia Bailey.

Others in Attendance*: *Members of the public are not required to identify themselves to attend. Attendee names appearing in these minutes are those who signed a voluntary sign-in sheet.

Ms. Morrissette called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. She welcomed those in attendance and confirmed with Ms. Hurley that public notice had been given of the meeting under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted at the meeting and on the district website, as required by law. She acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Board Meeting attendance is noted above. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on February 20, 2024. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Design Development Presentation held on March 1, 2024. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote, with Ms. Rider abstaining.

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Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, advised the Board on recent and upcoming mailings, including the District's Annual Report that was received at all households in the District this past week, and postcard reminders that will be sent to families at Hillside, Westgate and the Middle School in the coming weeks regarding construction kick-off meetings that will be held in May. These meetings will inform families of the construction timeline for Phase II projects. Ms. Power's office has also been assisting the high school with frequent communication to students and families regarding the start of construction on the WHS Life Complex and the subsequent loss of the south parking lot. Alternate parking started today (March 4th) and high school and district administrators were on hand at various parking areas this morning to assist with student parking and drop-off.

Academic Report: Middle School Science 8

As part of the Teaching and Learning team's year-long series on academic achievement, Mr. Mark Durante, WMS Science Teacher, shared information on what their department identified as the most essential concept that is foundational for success in Science 8. The concept of "Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning" (CER) is the basis for strong critical thinking skills. In Science 8, CER is best showcased with the Genetics and Heredity unit, which students are currently working on. Mr. Durante shared examples of leading questions for classroom discussions and results of assessments - both before and after reteaching. Because CER is critical for student success, it is a concept that is present across the curriculum. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond: Approval of Design Development for Hillside Elementary

Mr. Matt Herzog from Project Advocates, along with Mr. Todd Moeller, Ms. Nancy Novak, and Mr. Rick Hauptman from Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture (APMA), presented the Design Development for the new Hillside Elementary for board approval. Since approving the Concept Design on October 17, 2023, APMA has continued to work closely with the Hillside DAC and District staff to create the Design Development package being presented for approval. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2024. Staff and students will remain in the current building during construction. The Board of Education had the opportunity to preview the Design Development at a meeting with Project Advocates and APMA on March 1, 2024. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and design development presentation are included in the board documents folder.

District Enrollment and Demographics Report - 2023-2024 School Year

Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, presented an overview of the enrollment and demographic report for the 2023-2024 school year. K-12 enrollment for this school year increased .69%, with 6,165 K-12 students. English Language Learner enrollment rose slightly over last year, with ELL students making up 4.04% of total enrollment. Ethnic group student population that grew include Hispanic (from 11.27% to 12.23%) and Black/African American (from 9.31% to 9.80%). Students eligible for Special Education services also rose slightly, from 14.34% to 15.34%. A copy of Mr. Aranda's Executive Summary and the 2023-24 Enrollment and Demographic are included in the board documents folder.

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Personnel Report

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (two certified staff probationary contracts; one certified staff retirement; three certified staff resignations) for board approval. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Personnel Report is included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment - There were no requests for public comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

Ms. Morrisette reviewed recent activities and events attended by board members that included the State Swim meet; HATCH Open House; the Westside Swimming and Diving Alumni "Last Lap" pool farewell event; pep rally for the WHS Girls Swim Team State Championship; WHS Boys district basketball game (clinching the district title and a trip to State Tournament); walkthrough at Westside Middle School; Oakdale Elementary talent show; BOE Student Advisory Committee Seminar #2; and NASB President's Round Table.

March 11, 2024	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
March 13, 2024	Parent Teacher Conferences - 4:00-8:00 p.m.
March 14, 2024	Parent Teacher Conferences - 8:00am - 4:00pm - No School for Students
March 15, 2024	No School
March 18, 2024	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
April 1-5, 2024	Spring Break - No School

There being no further business, Ms. Morrisette adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.



Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary, Board of Education

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Meeting for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

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**THE DAILY RECORD
OF OMAHA
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher
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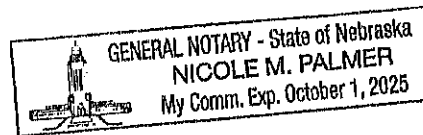
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
The State of Nebraska,
District of Nebraska,
County of Douglas,
City of Omaha

} ss.

JASON W. HUFF and/or JOSIE CHARRON, being duly sworn, deposes and say that they are the PUBLISHER and/or MANAGING EDITOR of THE DAILY RECORD, of Omaha, a legal newspaper, printed and published daily in the English language, having a bona fide paid circulation in Douglas County in excess of 300 copies, and a general circulation in Sarpy, Lancaster, Cass and Dodge Counties, printed in Omaha, in said County of Douglas, Nebraska for more than fifty-two weeks last past; that the printed notice here-to attached was published in THE DAILY RECORD, of Omaha, for 2 consecutive weeks on:

3/1/24 3/4/24

That said Newspaper during that time was regularly published and in general circulation in the County of Douglas, and State of Nebraska.



Publisher's Fee \$22.45
Additional Copies \$ _____
Filing Fee \$ _____

Total \$22.45

Jason W. Huff
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this MARCH 04 2024

Nicole M. Palmer
Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State of Nebraska

